Claims:

1. A calcium salt of rabeprazole.

2. The salt of claim 1, which is rabeprazole hemicalcium.

3. The salt of claim 1 or 2, which is in a crystalline form.

4. The salt of claim 3, which is an alcohol solvate.

5. The salt of claim 4, which is a methanol solvate.

6. The salt of claim 1 or 2, which is in a substantially amorphous form.

7. The salt of claim 1 or 2, which is hydrated.

8. The crystalline form of rabeprazole calcium of claim 3, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the X-ray diffraction pattern of Figure 1.

9. The crystalline form of rabeprazole calcium of claim 3, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the infrared spectrum of Figure 2.

10. The amorphous form of rabeprazole calcium of claim 6, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the X-ray diffraction pattern of Figure 4.

11. The amorphous form of rabeprazole calcium of claim 6, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the infrared spectrum of Figure 5.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of rabeprazole calcium; and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

13. A process for the preparation of rabeprazole calcium, the process comprising:

contacting rabeprazole free base or rabeprazole sodium with a calcium salt of an acid in a suitable solvent; and

isolating the rabeprazole calcium from the solution thereof by the removal of the solvent.

14. The process of claim 13, wherein the calcium salt of an acid is a salt of an inorganic acid.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein the calcium salt comprises one or more of calcium chloride, calcium nitrate, calcium sulphate, calcium phosphate, calcium carbonate, and calcium dihydrogenphosphate.

16. The process of claim 13, wherein the calcium salt of an acid is a salt of an organic acid.

17. The process of claim 16, wherein the calcium salt comprises one or more of calcium oxalate, calcium acetate, calcium lactate, calcium succinate, calcium citrate, and calcium tartrate.

18. The process of claims 13, wherein the solvent comprises one or more of water, lower alkanol, ketone, ester, ether, nitrile, hydrocarbon, dipolar aprotic solvent, or mixtures thereof.

19. The process of claim 18, wherein the the lower alkanol comprises one or more of primary, secondary and tertiary alcohol having from one to six carbon atoms.

20. The process of claim 19, wherein the lower alkanol comprises one or more of methanol, ethanol, denatured spirit, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, isobutanol, and t-butanol.

21. The process of claim 20, wherein the lower alkanol comprises one or more of methanol, ethanol, and isopropanol.

22. The process of claim 18, wherein the ketone comprises one or more of acetone, 2-butanone, and 4-methylpentan-2-one.

23. The process of claim 18, wherein the ester comprises one or more of methyl acetate, ethyl acetate and isopropyl acetate.

24. The process of claim 18, wherein the nitrile is acetonitrile.

25. The process of claim 18, wherein the ether comprises one or more of dioxane and tetrahydrofuran.

26. The process of claim 18, wherein the hydrocarbon comprises one or more of hexane and toluene.

27. The process of claim 18, wherein the dipolar aprotic solvent comprises one or more of dimethylsulfoxide and dimethylformamide..

28. The process of claim 13, further comprising adding a base if rabeprazole free base is used as a starting material.

29. The process of claim 28, wherein the base comprises one or more of an alkali metal hydroxide, alkali metal carbonate and alkali metal bicarbonate.

30. The process of claim 29, wherein the base comprises one or more of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate.

31. The process of claim 13, wherein the rabeprazole calcium precipitates out spontaneously from the solvent.

32. The process of claim 13, wherein removing the solvent comprises one or more of filtration, filtration under vacuum, decantation, and centrifugation.

33. The process of claim 13, wherein rabeprazole hemicalcium is isolated from the solution.

34. The process of claim 13, wherein a crystalline form of rabeprazole calcium is isolated from the solution.

35. The process of claim 34, wherein an alcohol solvate is isolated from the solution.

36. The process of claim 35, wherein a methanol solvate is isolated from the solution.

37. The process of claim 13, wherein a substantially amorphous form of rabeprazole calcium is isolated from the solution.

38. The process of claim 13, wherein the hydrate of rabeprazole calcium is isolated from the solution.

39. The process of claim 13, further comprising additional drying of the product obtained.

40. The process of claim 13, further comprising forming the product obtained into a finished dosage form.

41. The process of claim 13, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the X-ray diffraction pattern of Figure 1.

42. The process of claim 13, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the infrared spectrum of Figure 2.

43. The process of claim 13, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the X-ray diffraction pattern of Figure 4.

44. The process of claim 13, wherein the rabeprazole calcium has the infrared spectrum of Figure 5.

45. A method for treating or preventing gastrointestinal ulcers, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of rabeprazole calcium.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the rabeprazole calcium is used for healing of erosive or ulcerative gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD); maintenance of healing of erosive or ulcerative GERD; healing of duodenal ulcer; or treatment of pathological hypersecretory conditions, including Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome.

47. The method of claim 45, or 46, wherein the rabeprazole calcium is rabeprazole hemicalcium.

48. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment or prevention of gastrointestinal ulcers comprising an effective amount of rabeprazole calcium and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

49. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, wherein the rabeprazole calcium is rabeprazole hemicalcium.

50. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, or 49, wherein a crystalline form of the rabeprazole calcium is used.

51. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, or 49, wherein an alcohol solvate of the rabeprazole calcium is used.

52. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, or 49, wherein a substantially amorphous form of the rabeprazole calcium is used.

53. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 48, or 49, wherein a hydrate of the rabeprazole calcium is used.